

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to Applicant's arguments filed 12/03/2010 and the interview on 01/06/2011.

Claims 1, 6-8, 10-17, 20, 25-27, 29-34, 39-41, 43-51, 56-58, 60-66, 71-73, and 75-87 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-17, 20, 25-27, 29-34, 39-41, 43-51, 56-58, 60-66, 71-73, and 75-87 have been examined and allowed.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

With Jonathan O. Owens (Reg. No. 37,902) on 01/06/2011.

**The application has been amended as follows:**

**In the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.**

1. (Currently Amended) A network of devices to filter synchronized data, the network of devices comprising:

a. a content server to store content;

b. a first network device; [[and]]

c. a second network device; and

[[c.]] d. a middleware filter included within the second network device, the second network device coupled to the first network device and to the content server

such that during a data synchronization, content is received by the middleware filter from the content server according to the data synchronization and the middleware filter is programmed to selectively filter the content resulting in filtered content and send only the filtered content to the first network device, wherein the middleware filter selectively filters the content in response to meta data within the content, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content,

wherein the middleware filter reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the first network device if the data type of the read meta data matches an authorized data type associated with the first network device,

wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the first network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

2. -5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The network of devices of claim 1 wherein the meta data includes an authorized network device type.

7. (Original) The network of devices of claim 6 wherein the middleware filter reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the first network device if the authorized network device type of the read meta data matches a network device type associated with the first network device.

8. (Original) The network of devices of claim 7 wherein the middleware filter stores the network device type of the first network device.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The network of devices of claim 1 wherein the meta data includes data synchronization information corresponding to the data synchronization.

11. (Original) The network of devices of claim 10 further comprising a display coupled to the middleware filter to display the data synchronization information.

12. (Original) The network of devices of claim 1 wherein the data synchronization is a one-way data synchronization.

13. (Original) The network of devices of claim 1 wherein the data synchronization is a bi-directional data synchronization.

14. (Currently Amended) The network of devices of claim 1 ~~wherein the middleware filter is within a second network device and further~~ wherein the second network device comprises a personal computer.

15. (Original) The network of devices of claim 1 wherein the first network device comprises a personal digital assistant.

16. (Original) The network of devices of claim 1 wherein the content server comprises a web server.

17. (Currently Amended) The network of devices of claim 1 ~~wherein the middleware filter is within a second network device and further~~ wherein the second network device comprises a server.

18. -19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A network of devices to filter synchronized data, the network of devices comprising:

- a. a content server to store content;
- b. a personal digital assistant; and
- c. a personal computer coupled to the personal digital assistant and to the content server, wherein the personal computer includes a middleware filter programmed such that during a data synchronization, content received by the personal computer from the content server according to the data synchronization is selectively filtered according to the middleware filter, resulting in filtered content, wherein only the filtered content is sent to the personal digital assistant by the personal computer, wherein the middleware filter selectively filters the content in response to meta data within the content, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content,

wherein the personal computer reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the personal digital assistant if the data type of the read meta data matches an authorized data type associated with the personal digital assistant.

wherein the personal computer stores the authorized data type of the personal digital assistant, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

21.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The network of devices of claim 20 wherein the meta data includes an authorized network device type.

26. (Original) The network of devices of claim 25 wherein the personal computer reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the personal digital assistant if the authorized network device type of the read meta data matches a network device type associated with the personal digital assistant.

27. (Original) The network of devices of claim 26 wherein the personal computer stores the network device type of the personal digital assistant.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The network of devices of claim 20 wherein the meta data includes data synchronization information corresponding to the data synchronization.

30. (Original) The network of devices of claim 29 wherein the personal computer displays the data synchronization information.

31. (Original) The network of devices of claim 20 wherein the data synchronization is a one-way data synchronization.

32. (Original) The network of devices of claim 20 wherein the data synchronization is a bi-directional data synchronization.

33. (Original) The network of devices of claim 20 wherein the content server comprises a web server.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of filtering synchronized data, the method comprising:

- a. determining content to be sent from a content server to a first network device during a data synchronization;
- b. sending the content from the content server to a second network device coupled between the content server and the first network device, wherein the second network device includes a middleware filter;
- c. selectively filtering the content according to the middleware filter in response to meta data contained within the content, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content; and
- d. sending only the filtered content from the second network device to the first network device.

wherein selectively filtering the content includes reading the meta data of the content received from the content server by the middleware filter, matching the data type of the read meta data to an authorized data type associated with the first network device, and sending the content to the first network device if the data type of the read meta data matches the authorized data type associated with the first network device,

wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the first network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

35. -38. (canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the meta data includes an authorized network device type.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein selectively filtering the content includes reading the meta data of the content received from the content server by the middleware filter, matching the authorized network device type of the read meta data to a network device type associated with the first network device, and sending the content to the first network device if the authorized network device type of the read meta data matches the network device type associated with the first network device.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein the middleware filter stores the network



device type of the first network device.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the meta data includes data synchronization information corresponding to the data synchronization.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43 further comprising displaying the data synchronization information.

45. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the data synchronization is a one-way data synchronization.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the data synchronization is a bi-directional data synchronization.

47. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the second network device comprises a personal computer.

48. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the first network device comprises a personal digital assistant.

49. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the content server comprises a web server.

50. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the second network device comprises a server.

51. (Currently Amended) A method of filtering synchronized data, the method comprising:

- a. determining content to be sent from a content server to a first network device during a data synchronization, wherein the content server includes a middleware filter;
- b. selectively filtering the determined content according to the middleware filter in response to meta data contained within the content, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content; and
- c. sending only the filtered content from the content server to the first network device,

wherein selectively filtering the determined content includes reading the meta data of the determined content by the middleware filter, matching the data type of the read meta data to an authorized data type associated with the first network device, and sending the determined content to the first network device if the data type of the read meta data matches the authorized data type associated with the first network device,

wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the first network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

52. -55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the meta data includes an authorized network device type.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56 wherein selectively filtering the determined content includes reading the meta data of the determined content by the middleware filter, matching the authorized network device type of the read meta data to a network device type associated with the first network device, and sending the determined content to the first network device if the authorized network device type of the read meta data matches the network device type associated with the first network device.

58. (Original) The method of claim 57 wherein the middleware filter stores the network device type of the first network device.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the meta data includes data synchronization information corresponding to the data synchronization.

61. (Original) The method of claim 60 further comprising displaying the data synchronization information.

62. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein the data synchronization is a one-way data synchronization.

63. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein the data synchronization is a bi-directional data synchronization.

64. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein the first network device comprises a personal digital assistant.

65. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein the content server comprises a web server.

66. (Currently Amended) An apparatus including at least one processor to filter synchronized data, ~~wherein the apparatus includes comprising:~~

a middleware filter programmed such that during a data synchronization, content is received by the apparatus from a content server according to the data synchronization, and the received content is selectively sent to a network device by the apparatus according to the middleware filter, wherein the received content is selectively filtered by the middleware filter and wherein only the filtered content is sent to the network device

in response to meta data within the ~~selected~~ received content, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the received content,

wherein the middleware filter reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the network device if the data type of the read meta data matches an authorized data type associated with the network device,

wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

67. -70. (Canceled)

71. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the meta data includes an authorized network device type.

72. (Original) The apparatus of claim 71 wherein the middleware filter reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the network device if the authorized network device type of the read meta data matches a network device type associated with the network device.

73. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the middleware filter stores the network device type of the network device.

74. (Canceled)

75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the meta data includes data synchronization information corresponding to the data synchronization.

76. (Original) The apparatus of claim 75 further comprising a display to display the data synchronization information.

77. (Original) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the data synchronization is a one-way data synchronization.

78. (Original) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the data synchronization is a bi-directional data synchronization.

79. (Original) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the apparatus comprises a personal computer.

80. (Original) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the network device comprises a personal digital assistant.

81. (Original) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the content server comprises a web

server.

82. (Original) The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the apparatus comprises a server.

83. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for filtering synchronized data comprising:

- a. means for determining content to be sent from a content server to a first network device during a data synchronization;
- b. means for sending the content from the content server to a second network device coupled between the content server and the first network device, wherein the second network device includes a middleware filter;
- c. means for selectively filtering the content in response to meta data contained within the content, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content; and
- d. means for sending only the filtered content from the second network device to the first network device,

wherein selectively filtering the content includes reading the meta data of the content received from the content server by the middleware filter, matching the data type of the read meta data to an authorized data type associated with the first network device, and sending the content to the first network device if the data type of the read meta data matches the authorized data type associated with the first network device, wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the first network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

84. (Currently Amended) A network of devices to filter synchronized data, the network of devices comprising:

- a. a content server to store content;
- b. a first network device, wherein a communications channel is established for communicating content from the content server to the first network device; and
- c. a middleware filter coupled to the first network device and to the content server such that during a data synchronization, all content sent over the communications channel from the content server is received by the middleware filter according to the data synchronization and the middleware filter is programmed to selectively filter the content in response to meta data containing device specifications within the content resulting in filtered content and send only the filtered content to the first network device, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content,

wherein the middleware filter reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the first network device if the data type of the read meta data matches an authorized data type associated with the first network device,

wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the first network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.



85. (Currently Amended) A network of devices to filter synchronized data, the network of devices comprising:

- a. a content server to store content;
- b. a first network device; and
- c. a second network device coupled between the first network device and the content server, the second network device comprising a middleware filter, such that during a data synchronization, content is received by the middleware filter from the content server according to the data synchronization and the middleware filter is programmed to selectively filter the content in response to meta data within the content, the metadata comprising an attribute-value pair, resulting in filtered content and send only the filtered content to the first network device, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content, and further wherein the first network device and the second network device are local and the content server is remote from the first network device and the second network device,

wherein the middleware filter reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the first network device if the data type of the read meta data matches an authorized data type associated with the first network device, wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the first network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

86. (Currently Amended) A method of filtering synchronized data, the method comprising:

- a. determining content to be sent from a content server to a first network device during a bi-directional data synchronization;
- b. sending the content from the content server to a second network device coupled between the content server and the first network device, wherein the second network device includes a middleware filter;
- c. selectively filtering the content according to the middleware filter in response to meta data contained within the content, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content; and
- d. sending only the filtered content from the second network device to the first network device,

wherein selectively filtering the content includes reading the meta data of the content received from the content server by the middleware filter, matching the data type of the read meta data to an authorized data type associated with the first network device, and sending the content to the first network device if the data type of the read meta data matches the authorized data type associated with the first network device.

wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the first network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

87. (Currently Amended) A network of devices to filter synchronized data, the network of devices comprising:

- a. a content server to store content;
- b. a first network device; and
- c. a middleware filter coupled to the first network device and to the content server such that during a bi-directional data synchronization, content is received by the middleware filter from the content server according to the bi-directional data synchronization and the middleware filter is programmed to selectively filter the content resulting in filtered content and send only the filtered content to the first network device, wherein the middleware filter selectively filters the content in response to meta data within the content, wherein the meta data comprises a data type of the content,

wherein the middleware filter reads the meta data of the content received from the content server and sends the content to the first network device if the data type of the read meta data matches an authorized data type associated with the first network device,

wherein the middleware filter stores the authorized data type of the first network device, and

wherein the meta data is added to the content by the content server.

### **Reasons For Allowance**

2. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-17, 20, 25-27, 29-34, 39-41, 43-51, 56-58, 60-66, 71-73, and 75-87 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Claim 83 meets the three prong analysis and are presumed to invoke 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. Therefore, claim 83 is not software per se.
- Interpreting the claims in light of the specification, Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record. The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 20, 34, 51, 66, and 83-87. The dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Contact Information**

3. Any inquiry or a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: (571) 272-2100.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VAN H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-3765. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM-6:00PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternative Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, EMERSON PUENTE can be reached at (571) 272-3652.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/VAN H NGUYEN/  
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